



# Mineral Industry Surveys

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**For information, contact:**

Patricia A. Plunkert, Aluminum Commodity Specialist  
U.S. Geological Survey  
989 National Center  
Reston, VA 20192  
Telephone: (703) 648-4979, Fax: (703) 648-7757  
E-mail: [pplunker@usgs.gov](mailto:pplunker@usgs.gov)

Lauri Watson (Data)  
Telephone: (703) 648-7962, Fax: (703) 648-7975  
E-mail: [lwatson@usgs.gov](mailto:lwatson@usgs.gov)

**Internet:** <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals>

## ALUMINUM IN MARCH 2003

The reported domestic primary aluminum production in March was 237,823 metric tons (t). The average daily production rate was 7,672 t, 2% lower than that of the previous month but 8% above the rate for March 2002.

The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot decreased from 68.75 cents per pound in February to 67.56 cents per pound in March, according to Platts Metals Week. The American Metal Market buying price range for aluminum used beverage cans (UBCs) began the month at 51.5–53.5 cents per pound. On March 4, the buying price range increased to 53.0–54.5 cents per pound. The price range then began a steady decline through the end of the month. On March 11, the price range was 52.5–54.0 cents per pound; on March 18, 51–53 cents per pound; on March 25, 50–52 cents per pound; and on March 31, 49–51 cents per pound. According to Resource Recycling's Container Recycling Report, the average monthly transaction price for aluminum UBCs decreased from a revised 53.8 cents per pound in February to 52.9 cents per pound in March.

### 2002 UBC Recycling Rate

According to data jointly released by the Aluminum Association Inc., the Can Manufacturers Institute, and the

Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries Inc., 53.8 billion aluminum beverage cans were recycled in the United States in 2002. The recycling rate was 53.4% (Aluminum Association Inc., 2003).

### Update

The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot decreased from 67.56 cents per pound in March to 64.50 cents per pound in April. The American Metal Market buying price range for aluminum UBCs fluctuated during April. On April 4, the buying price range decreased to 48.5–50.5 cents per pound. On April 15, the price range decreased again to 48–50 cents per pound before returning to the 48.5–50.5 cents per pound range on April 23 where it remained through the end of the month.

### Reference Cited

Aluminum Association Inc., 2003, Aluminum beverage can continues to be most recycled consumer beverage package: Washington, DC, Aluminum Association Inc. press release, April 11, 3 p.

TABLE 1  
COMPONENTS OF ALUMINUM SUPPLY<sup>1</sup>

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Primary production	Secondary recovery <sup>2</sup>			Imports for consumption			Total new supply <sup>3</sup>	Total stocks, end of period <sup>4</sup>
		New	Old	Total	Metals and alloys, crude	Plates, sheets, bars, etc.	Total		
2002 <sup>p</sup>	2,707	1,810	1,180	3,000 <sup>r</sup>	2,790	797	3,590	9,290 <sup>r</sup>	1,320
2002:									
March	220	153	99	252	223	62	285	757	1,330
April	216	148	97	245	221	65	286	748	1,310
May	228	154	99	253	221	76	297	777	1,280
June	225	150	96	246	263	71	334	805	1,320
July	238	146 <sup>r</sup>	101 <sup>r</sup>	247 <sup>r</sup>	228	74	302	787 <sup>r</sup>	1,310
August	237	159 <sup>r</sup>	103 <sup>r</sup>	262 <sup>r</sup>	279	77	356	855 <sup>r</sup>	1,350
September	227	159 <sup>r</sup>	101 <sup>r</sup>	259 <sup>r</sup>	235	70	305	791 <sup>r</sup>	1,370
October	235	162 <sup>r</sup>	104 <sup>r</sup>	267 <sup>r</sup>	196	67	263	764 <sup>r</sup>	1,360
November	232	151	97	248	264	64	328	807	1,370
December	241	145 <sup>r</sup>	89 <sup>r</sup>	233	186	61	247	721 <sup>r</sup>	1,320
January-March	627	441	294	735	700	172	872	2,240	1,550
2003:									
January	242	155	109	264 <sup>r</sup>	215	69	284	790 <sup>r</sup>	1,350
February	220	157	101	258	246	64	310	788	1,390
March	238	147	85	232	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
January-March	700	459	295	754	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

<sup>p</sup>Preliminary. <sup>r</sup>Revised. NA Not available.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except "Primary production"; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Metallic recovery from purchased, tolled, or imported scrap, expanded for full coverage of industry.

<sup>3</sup>Primary production, secondary recovery, and imports for consumption.

<sup>4</sup>Includes scrap; data from the Aluminum Association Inc.

TABLE 2  
ESTIMATED FULL COVERAGE CONSUMPTION OF AND METALLIC RECOVERY FROM PURCHASED NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP<sup>1</sup>

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Secondary smelters		Integrated aluminum companies		Independent mill fabricators		Foundries		Other consumers		Total	
	Consumption	Metal recovery	Consumption	Metal recovery	Consumption	Metal recovery	Consumption	Metal recovery	Consumption	Metal recovery	Consumption	Metal recovery
2002 <sup>b</sup>	1,820 <sup>r</sup>	1,350 <sup>r</sup>	871	754	823	764	134	122	6	6	3,650 <sup>r</sup>	3,000 <sup>r</sup>
2002:												
March	152	113	79	69	64	60	11	10	1	1	307	252
April	150	112	71	62	64	59	13	12	1	1	299	245
May	152	113	73	63	69	64	13	12	(2)	(2)	308	253
June	150	112	65	56	71	66	12	11	(2)	(2)	299	246
July	153 <sup>r</sup>	113	66	56	75	69	9	8	(2)	(2)	302 <sup>r</sup>	247 <sup>r</sup>
August	158 <sup>r</sup>	117	76	66	75	69	11	10	1	1	320 <sup>r</sup>	262 <sup>r</sup>
September	153 <sup>r</sup>	114	78	68	72	67	11	10	(2)	(2)	315 <sup>r</sup>	259 <sup>r</sup>
October	157 <sup>r</sup>	116 <sup>r</sup>	79	68	77	71	11	10	(2)	(2)	324 <sup>r</sup>	267 <sup>r</sup>
November	149	111	71	61	71	66	11	10	(2)	(2)	302	248
December	148 <sup>r</sup>	109	64	55	63	59	10	9	(2)	(2)	286 <sup>r</sup>	233
January-March	448	333	228	198	187	173	33	29	1	1	897	735
2003:												
January	165	125	70	60	72 <sup>r</sup>	67	12	11	(2)	(2)	319	264 <sup>r</sup>
February	166	126	66	57	68	64	11	10	(2)	(2)	313	258
March	140	103	59	50	73	69	11	10	(2)	(2)	283	232
January-March	471	355	195	168	213	200	34	30	1	1	915	754

<sup>b</sup>Preliminary. <sup>r</sup>Revised.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Less than 1/2 unit.

TABLE 3  
CONSUMPTION OF AND RECOVERY FROM PURCHASED  
NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP IN MARCH 2003<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
Secondary smelters	116,000	140,000	85,900	103,000
Integrated aluminum companies	58,800	58,800	50,200	50,200
Independent mill fabricators	61,100	73,300	57,200	68,600
Foundries	9,170	11,000	8,250	9,900
Other consumers	364	437	364	437
Total	246,000	283,000	202,000	232,000

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

TABLE 4  
PURCHASED AND TOLL-TREATED ALUMINUM-BASE SCRAP AND SWEATED PIG IN 2003<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

	March				January-March <sup>2</sup>	
	Stocks, opening	Net receipts <sup>3</sup>	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing	Net receipts <sup>3</sup>	Melted or consumed
New scrap:						
Solids	31,600	73,400	76,100	28,900	232,000	241,000
Can stock clippings	2,160	20,900	19,900	3,170	59,700	58,300
Other clippings	5,420	8,320	8,340	5,400	30,800	30,900
Borings and turnings	4,930	18,600	18,700	4,840	56,700	56,300
Dross and skimmings	2,730	32,800	32,800	2,730	101,000	101,000
Total new scrap	46,800	154,000	156,000	45,000	480,000	487,000
Old scrap:						
Used casting, sheet, clippings	12,700	30,000	30,400	12,300	122,000	122,000
Aluminum-copper radiators	1,650	2,370	2,410	1,610	6,620	6,920
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	30,900	49,700	47,200	33,500	154,000	149,000
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	4,230	8,900	8,880	4,250	27,400	26,700
Total old scrap	49,500	90,900	88,900	51,600	310,000	305,000
Sweated pig	192	915	915	192	2,820	2,790
Total all classes	96,500	246,000	246,000	96,800	793,000	795,000

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Includes revised data from previous month(s).

<sup>3</sup>Includes data on imported aluminum-base scrap.

TABLE 5  
ALUMINUM ALLOYS PRODUCED AT SECONDARY SMELTERS IN THE UNITED STATES FOR 2003<sup>1,2</sup>

(Metric tons)

	March				January-March <sup>3</sup>	
	Stocks, opening	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing	Production	Net shipments
Die-cast alloys:						
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	4,390	1,440	1,700	4,120	4,580	5,000
380 and variations	5,820	33,300	33,100	6,040	98,700	98,300
Sand and permanent mold:						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	3,190	4,060	4,070	3,180	12,200	12,200
No. 319 and variations	9,970	11,400	11,500	9,910	33,700	34,000
F-132 alloy and variations	2,780	1,920	1,920	2,780	6,150	5,880
Al-Zn alloys	630	59	59	630	176	176
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	91	168	168	91	505	505
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	--	191	191	--	573	573
Other <sup>4</sup>	5,590	10,300	8,360	7,490	28,700	26,200
Wrought alloys:						
Extrusion billets	10,600	17,400	17,500	10,500	53,100	53,200
Total all alloys	43,000	80,300	78,600	44,700	238,000	236,000
Less:						
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	5,680	XX	XX	17,100	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	3,770	XX	XX	11,100	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	507	XX	XX	1,440	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot <sup>5</sup>	XX	70,300	XX	XX	209,000	XX

XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Excludes integrated aluminum companies.

<sup>2</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>3</sup>Includes revised data from previous month(s).

<sup>4</sup>Includes alloys No. 12, Al-Mg, Al-Si-Cu-Ni, aluminum-base hardeners, variations of these alloys, plus other aluminum alloys.

<sup>5</sup>No allowance made for melt-loss of primary aluminum and alloying ingredients.

TABLE 6  
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ALUMINUM IN FEBRUARY 2003<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

Country	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	February	January- February	February	January- February	February	January- February	February	January- February
Argentina	6,630	12,300	79	136	--	197	6,710	12,600
Australia	4,810	8,320	24	57	9	9	4,840	8,380
Bahrain	1,160	2,930	2,370	3,940	--	--	3,530	6,870
Belgium	--	5	917	1,550	--	--	917	1,550
Brazil	8,100	15,200	1,580	2,440	--	200	9,680	17,800
Canada	151,000	287,000	34,900	74,300	21,200	42,900	207,000	404,000
France	20	130	590	1,060	40	167	650	1,360
Germany	224	275	4,180	9,860	145	469	4,550	10,600
Ghana	--	--	--	--	--	592	--	592
Hungary	--	--	220	329	--	--	220	329
Italy	--	--	154	349	--	--	154	349
Japan	36	54	801	1,720	159	160	996	1,930
Korea, Republic of	--	--	426	803	--	--	426	803
Mexico	534	846	1,140	2,390	5,000	12,400	6,680	15,600
Netherlands	38	110	271	581	--	106	309	796
Norway	5	15	15	15	--	--	20	31
Russia	63,300	104,000	2,260	7,360	502	1,320	66,000	112,000
South Africa	19	1,230	2,080	4,840	--	--	2,100	6,080
Spain	2	30	14	36	--	--	16	66
Sweden	--	--	192	528	--	97	192	625
Switzerland	945	2,090	503	732	--	--	1,450	2,820
United Arab Emirates	5,380	7,870	2	2	201	422	5,580	8,290
United Kingdom	548	699	44	144	159	316	751	1,160
Venezuela	2,110	14,500	3,730	3,730	357	447	6,200	18,700
Other	1,590	3,510	7,720	16,700	3,360	6,660	12,700	26,900
Total	246,000	461,000	64,200	134,000	31,200	66,400	342,000	661,000

-- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 7  
U.S. EXPORTS OF ALUMINUM IN FEBRUARY 2003<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	February	January-February	February	January-February	February	January-February	February	January-February
Australia	21	21	172	246	106	126	300	393
Belgium	37	147	284	669	--	--	320	816
Brazil	(2)	1	1,450	2,560	--	--	1,450	2,560
Canada	10,600	20,400	42,200	88,000	14,100	27,300	66,900	136,000
China	11	60	1,550	4,110	14,400	31,400	16,000	35,600
Czech Republic	--	--	90	155	--	--	90	155
Dominican Republic	19	19	350	430	--	--	370	450
France	--	(2)	292	677	--	--	292	677
Germany	61	70	409	638	52	60	522	767
Hong Kong	8	49	161	349	1,200	2,160	1,360	2,560
India	2	2	3	34	509	569	514	605
Israel	(2)	1	263	506	2	3	266	510
Italy	1	1	145	394	--	--	146	395
Japan	192	392	370	1,100	3,240	5,330	3,800	6,820
Korea, Republic of	10	58	1,080	2,090	3,500	6,540	4,590	8,690
Malaysia	42	56	33	94	--	--	74	150
Mexico	3,690	7,630	7,400	15,900	5,100	10,400	16,200	33,900
Netherlands	16	36	41	112	--	46	57	194
Saudi Arabia	--	--	936	2,960	--	--	936	2,960
Singapore	10	11	97	264	--	--	107	275
Spain	6	13	18	71	--	--	24	84
Sweden	--	--	16	66	--	--	16	66
Taiwan	4	28	224	814	2,270	4,170	2,500	5,020
Thailand	--	--	318	1,410	135	689	453	2,090
United Kingdom	57	68	1,160	1,920	105	200	1,320	2,190
Venezuela	--	--	9	9	--	--	9	9
Ukraine	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	1
Other	44	52	1,360	2,750	188	583	1,590	3,390
Total	14,800	29,100	60,400	128,000	44,900	89,600	120,000	247,000

-- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.